

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

In re application of : March 13, 2006  
Michael Herscovici et al.  
Group Art Unit: 2166 : Examiner: Khanh B. Pham  
Serial No.: 10/605,208 : Filed: 9/15/2003  
Attorney Docket: ARC920030035US1 : Confirmation No.: 2207

Title: AUTOMATIC QUERY ROUTING AND RANK CONFIGURATION FOR  
SEARCH QUERIES IN AN INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM

**DECLARATION PER 37 CFR 1.131 AND 37 CFR 1.68**

Director of the USPTO  
Mail Stop Amendment  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

As attorney of record for the above-identified patent application, I hereby declare as follows:

1. On November 11, 2002, a disclosure describing the invention was submitted using IBM's computerized time-stamped invention disclosure database system for evaluation by IBM's IP Law staff. Technical reviewers were assigned to assess the invention.
2. On February 20, 2003, a review meeting was held per IBM's invention review policy to discuss the invention's technical and business merit. On March 3, 2003, a decision was made to conduct a prior art search for the invention. Descriptive search claims were written and the invention disclosure was sent out for search on April 8, 2003. The search results were received on May 2, 2003. The search results were then reviewed, and a decision to file a patent application was made on May 19, 2003; the invention was then transferred to outside counsel for patent application preparation. From prior to November 11, 2002, until the filing of the patent application on

September 15, 2003, I exercised due diligence toward constructively reducing the invention to practice, as evidenced by the disclosure material attached hereto as Exhibit A. The disclosure was evaluated and processed as part of IBM's standard patent processing procedures and culminated in the filing of the patent application on September 15, 2003.

3. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

By Marc D. McSwain  
Marc D. McSwain (#44,929)  
Agent for Applicants  
Phone (408) 927-3364

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**DECLARATION PER 37 CFR 1.131 AND 37 CFR 1.68**

Sir:

As an inventor named below, I hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an original, first and joint inventor of the invention described and claimed in claims 1-17 in the above-identified patent application filed on September 15, 2003, which I have assigned to the IBM Corporation. The subject matter and the claimed invention in this patent application were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the IBM Corporation or subject to an obligation of assignment to the IBM Corporation.

2. Prior to November 11, 2002, I conceived the invention as described and claimed in the subject application in the United States as evidenced by the disclosure material attached hereto as Exhibit A. The disclosure describing the invention was submitted on November 11, 2002, using IBM's time-stamped invention disclosure database system for evaluation by IBM's IP Law staff.

3. From prior to November 11, 2002, until the filing of the patent application on September 15, 2003, I exercised due diligence toward reducing the invention to practice, as evidenced by the disclosure material attached hereto as Exhibit A. The disclosure was evaluated and processed as part of IBM's standard patent processing procedures and culminated in the filing of the patent

application on September 15, 2003.

4. The photocopies of the disclosure materials attached to this declaration as Exhibit A are true copies of the original pages showing conception of the invention prior to November 11, 2002 coupled with due diligence from prior to November 11, 2002 to the filing of the patent application.

5. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

Inventor Signature:

  
Michael Herscovici

Date:

March 30, 2006

Inventor Signature:

Reiner Kraft

Date:

Inventor Signature:

Jason Zien

Date:

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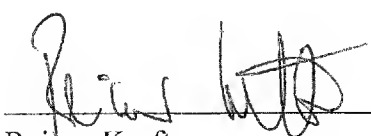
application on September 15, 2003.

4. The photocopies of the disclosure materials attached to this declaration as Exhibit A are true copies of the original pages showing conception of the invention prior to November 11, 2002 coupled with due diligence from prior to November 11, 2002 to the filing of the patent application.

5. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

Inventor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Herscovici

Inventor Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/21/2006  
Reiner Kraft

Inventor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Zien

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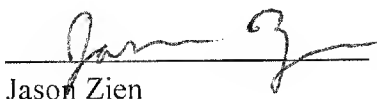
4. The photocopies of the disclosure materials attached to this declaration as Exhibit A are true copies of the original pages showing conception of the invention prior to November 11, 2002 coupled with due diligence from prior to November 11, 2002 to the filing of the patent application.

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Respectfully submitted,

Inventor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Herscovici

Inventor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reiner Kraft

Inventor Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/1/06  
Jason Zien